

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the present amendment is respectfully requested. By the present amendment, claim 1 is amended.

Claim 1 is amended to recite that the upper portion of the gas bag is at which an occupant comes into contact. This language further defining the upper portion is disclosed on page 3, lines 20-21 of applicant's specification. Claim 1 patentably defines over Hidehito et al. Claim 1 recites that the connecting ring (18) and the reinforcement layer (22) are sewn to said upper portion (14) by the at least one first seam (24). Hidehito et al. does not disclose or suggest a connecting ring and a reinforcement layer that are sewn to the upper portion by the at least one first seam. By contrast, Hidehito et al. shows a patch (40) that is sutured to the inflator side cloth 14 by the sewing section 24. The inflator side cloth 14, where the inflator opening 15 is formed, is not where an occupant comes into contact.

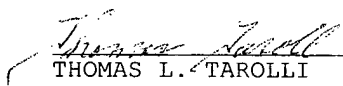
Also, claim 1 recites that the reinforcement layer (22) is provided between the connecting ring (18) and the upper portion (14). Hidehito et al. does not disclose or suggest this feature. Rather, Hidehito et al. shows a tether forming cloth 18a that is located between the patch 40 and the passenger or crew side cloth 21. Further, Hidehito et al. does not disclose or suggest at least one second seam, which only fastens the reinforcement layer to the upper portion. Therefore, in view of the above-mentioned reasons, claim 1 is allowable. Claims 2-4, and 6-8 depend from claim 1 and are

therefore allowable as depending from an allowable claim and for the specific features recited therein.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the above-identified application is in condition for allowance, and allowance of the above-identified application is respectfully requested.

Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in the fees for this amendment to our Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

Respectfully submitted,


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